

Työterveyslaitos

Platformisation of work: a narrative literature review

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Summary

The purpose of this narrative and exploratory literature review was to examine how the concept of the 'platformisation of work' is used in international research literature. The review sought to explore what the platformisation of work or labor means based on the selected literature, and what it can tell us about the platformisation of work beyond the actual platform work. The material consisted of ten texts, which were analysed using a thematic analysis. In the material, the concept of platformisation of work was used in particular when referring to the fact that digital work equipment and platform-based practices are also spreading to traditional work and traditional work environments and organisations. Changes in the forms and meanings of work were also visible as manifestations of the platformisation of work. Furthermore, the platformisation of work was associated with several intertwined processes. These included but were not limited to the fragmentation of work processes and new modes of production enabled by platforms, which can blur the boundaries of work, challenge familiar models of work and employment, and modify the significance of formal qualifications. The review process indicated that the concepts of platformisation of work and platformised work are still only used relatively infrequently and unsystematically in international research literature. Overall, concepts related to platformisation of work are partly overlapping and not fully established and thus, a broader, comparative conceptual analysis would be useful.